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CASPER, WYO.
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Former CIA agent and author Frank Snepp Friday said the Reagan administration has engaged in "unprecedented" censorship.

Snepp, a guest speaker at Casper College's seminar on George Orwell's "1984," said many of Orwell's warnings of a totalitarian society are "here and now."

While there are no thought police or torture chambers in America, Snepp said "every time the Supreme Court permits censorship, I am reminded of Orwell's 'doublespeak,' and when any bureaucrat suppresses another piece of embarrassing information in the name of national security, I find them guilty of 'newspeak.'"

Snepp said Reagan has an "an arrogant disregard" for reporters, and said the Reagan administration has carried censorship and surveillance to "unprecedented lengths while walling itself off from scrutiny that even President Nixon would envy."

Snepp refuted administration claims that too much information has been allowed to leak to the reporters.

Snepp said during recent congressional hearings, government officials charged with monitoring government leaks admitted they could only count six leaks, none of which were serious.

Snepp said when the State, Defense and Justice Departments added up the number of classified disclosures made by former bureaucrats since 1979 "only two examples could be cited."

Snepp added that the White House recently acknowledged that 800,000 papers had unnecessarily been classified and that "600,000 had been classified by people who had no authority to do so."

Snepp said the president's attitude on freedom of information has been formed by Duke University professor named Robert Entam, who, while working for a "think tank" headed by Attorney General-designate Edwin Meese, issued a reported entitled "The Imperial Media," which Snepp said "urges the president to bring the press to heel."

Snepp said the Reagan administration's decision to bar reporters from covering the invasion of Grenada "demonstrated that without the press along to monitor, the government couldn't be trusted to tell the truth."

Snepp said there were a number of errors included in the government's version of the military operation, including the number of Cuban soldiers on the island and the amount and type of weapons found on the island.

Snepp is also worried that "not once has any federal court ever overturned a government decision to deny any Freedom of Information Act request."

Snepp said the administration has started charging search fees for documents, in one case demanding \$208,000 up front before the government would begin searching for the requested documents.